

Message Text

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EXDIS/FOR AMBASSADOR. JERUSALEM FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, PGOV, US, JO,XF

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) AMMAN 1271 (B) AMMAN 573 (C) 77 AMMAN 9739

1. FOR ATHERTON: LANGUAGE BEGINNING AT PARA. 3 IS DOD-CLEARED AND REFLECTS PRESENT STATUS OF REQUEST FROM EMBASSY AMMAN AND JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT FOR INFORMATION ON JORDANIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT NEEDS. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING BY SEPTTEL ADDED BACKGROUNDER ON CURRENT JORDANIAN-SAUDI PROBLEM REGARDING FMS LOANS, ALONG WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF KEY POLICY DECISIONS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED IF WE INTEND TO BE MORE FULLY RESPONSIVE TO HUSSEIN'S NEEDS IN CONNECTION

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WITH THE PEACE PROCESS. SEPTTEL WILL BETTER PREPARE YOU, IN CONSULTATION WITH PICKERING, FOR YOUR TALKS IN AMMAN.

2. FOR AMBASSADOR PICKERING: SINCE THERE MAY BE A NEED FOR NEW POLICY DECISIONS, SUGGEST YOU HOLD OFF SAYING ANYTHING TO THE JORDANIANS AS REGARD THE REDEYES AND THE HELICOPTERS BELOW.

3. FOLLOWING REPLIES TO REF A ASSUME RECEIPT OF ALL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FINANCING PAYMENTS IN ARREARS AT THIS TIME. LOAS: DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED DOD ON JANUARY 4 TO PREPARE

APPROPRIATE LOAS FOR ITEMS AND SERVICES PROGRAMMED UNDER FY77 FMS PRIOR TO RECEIVING THIRD-PARTY GUARANTOR. THIS WAS DONE, HOWEVER, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT JORDAN WOULD SECURE A THIRD-PARTY GUARANTOR WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THAT TIME HAVE MADE THE SAUDI-JORDANIAN ARRANGEMENT EVEN MURKIER THAN IT WAS THEN. ALL LOAS MUST BE UPDATED IF THEY ARE NOT SIGNED BY STATED EXPIRATION DATES AND JORDAN WOULD NOT ACQUIRE A PLACE IN PRODUCTION LINE QUEUES UNTIL LOAS SIGNED AND FUNDED. WHEN LOAS ARE COMPLETED, WE WILL NOTIFY YOU.

4. U.S. ARMY HAS SET NO FIRM PHASE-OUT SCHEDULE FOR RED-EYES. WE CANNOT, THEREFORE, PREDICT WHEN THEY MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE. RELEASE OF ADDITIONAL REDEYES TO JORDAN, WHENEVER AVAILABLE, WILL REQUIRE A POLICY DETERMINATION, WHICH NOT YET MADE.

5. IT IS PRESENTLY PLANNED TO NOTIFY CONGRESS OF INTENTION TO SELL AH1S HELICOPTERS DURING FY 79. IN LIGHT OF CURRENT MOOD IN CONGRESS RE SUCH SALES, WE COULD RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES.

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6. WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO DISCUSSING WITH JAF THEIR ARTILLERY MODERNIZATION AND TARGET ACQUISITION REQUIREMENTS. TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE RELEASABILITY, WE NEED TO KNOW MORE SPECIFICALLY THE KINDS OF TARGET ACQUISITION EQUIPMENT JAF HAS IN MIND. FROM PARA 4(B)3 OF REF C, WE HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD THAT AMMAN ENVISAGED PROVIDING TEAM TO JORDANIANS TO DISCUSS MODERNIZATION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR IDEAS RE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OR CAPABILITIES OF TEAM THAT COULD NOT BE PROVIDED BY MAP/AMMAN.

7. WE ARE PRESENTLY PREPARED TO OFFER LOAS ON MEDICAL EQUIPMENT. WE CAN PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING EQUIPMENT IF GOJ SPECIFIES ITS NEEDS IN THE MEDICAL FIELD.

8. EMERAD 30 HAS GOOD CAPABILITY, IS COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE AND RELEASABLE. IT IS, HOWEVER, EXHORBITANTLY EXPENSIVE (I.E., PROPOSED EQUIPMENT OUTLINED PARA 4(B)4, REFTTEL C WOULD COST DOLS. 350 MILLION OR MORE IN VERY ROUGH TERMS). PRIME BENEFIT, AS IN KUWAITI PROGRAM, WOULD BE HIGH DEGREE OF AUTOMATION, REDUCING PERSONNEL REQUIRED FOR OPERATION. WE HAVE ASKED DOD TO STUDY MILITARY

JUSTIFICATION OF THIS EQUIPMENT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
VULCAN PROGRAM.

9. POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER ACCELERATION OF ARTILLERY
ARE REMOTE; DELIVERIES FOR 68 M109A1BS SCHEDULED FOR CY 78.

JORDAN WILL BE RECEIVING NEXT LOT OF PRODUCTION MODELS OF
M110A1S AND THERE, THUS, NO POSSIBILITY OF DIVERSION FROM
ANOTHER FMS CUSTOMER.

10. WE WILL BE PROVIDING YOU WITH ANSWER RE M-60S AND
ACCELERATION OF CONVERSION KITS TO IRAN SEPTEL. DIS-
CUSSION OF P AND B AND RELEASABILITY DATA ON ITEMS IN
REFTEL B WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTEL. VANCE
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